

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOXLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED STATE CHAMPION SCHOOL BY THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer congratulations to Loxley Elementary School for being named a State Champion school for 2006–2007 by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

With the motto, "EveryBODY is a winner in activity and fitness," the President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards program offers presidential recognition and awards for physical activity and fitness participation to children ages 6 to 17. The State Champion award is presented annually to three schools in each State having the highest number of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test.

As a State Champion, Loxley Elementary School is a role model for other schools because of its dedication to helping students encourage physical activity and gain fitness skills along with an understanding of the health benefits of being regularly active. Encouraging adequate amounts of daily physical activity is an excellent way to instill healthy lifestyle habits at an early age.

The five assessments of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test measure four components of physical fitness: a one-mile run/walk for heart and lung endurance; curl-ups for abdominal strength and endurance; a "sit and reach" stretch for muscular flexibility; pull-ups for upper body strength and endurance; and a shuttle run for agility.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Loxley Elementary School in Loxley, Alabama, for this honor. This school deserves public recognition and our appreciation for their concerted efforts to instill healthy lifestyle habits in the children of south Alabama.

ORGAIN, BELL, & TUCKER—TEXAS LAWYERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a Texas institution, the Orgain, Bell, and Tucker law firm, on its 100th anniversary. Orgain, Bell, and Tucker is located in many cities throughout Texas and was founded in Beaumont, TX.

William Edmund Orgain, the initial founding partner, was lured to Beaumont from his native Bastrop, TX by the need for land litigation that sprung from the Spindletop Gusher and the Texas oil boom in 1901. With the onset of the second oil boom the firm's second partner Major T. Bell joined Mr. Orgain's firm in 1925 to help with business generated by the second major oil unearthing in Beaumont. John G. Tucker joined the firm in 1933 and the firm was coined Orgain, Bell, and Tucker.

Orgain, Bell, and Tucker has, for the past 100 years, served clients with integrity in the areas of insurance defense, commercial litigation, utility law, labor law, and medical and legal malpractice.

Community service, starting with Mr. Orgain's service on the Texas Supreme Court Committee, which wrote the Texas Rules for Civil Procedure, and Major Bell's service as President of the State Bar of Texas in 1942, has always been a core philosophy of Orgain, Bell, and Tucker. Through service to the great State of Texas and to their local community Orgain, Bell, and Tucker's history of service has influenced generations of attorneys and community leaders.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 31, 2007, I missed rollcall vote No. 1026 a motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 3034. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING MIKE LOWELL: THE 2007 WORLD SERIES MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Mike Lowell of the World Champion Boston Red Sox, for being named the 2007 World Series Most Valuable Player.

Mike grew up in Miami where he was a high school baseball star at Coral Gables Senior High School. He made the All-Dade First Team and was an All-State/All-Star in 1992. He did all this while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Mike was offered a full scholarship by Florida International University, FIU, where he excelled both as a student and an athlete and was honored as an Academic All-American.

In 1995, he was drafted by the New York Yankees and quickly moved up the minor league system. His parents, Carl and Beatriz, always stressed the importance of a good education, and after being drafted, he returned to FIU. He graduated magna cum laude in 1996 with a degree in finance.

In 1999, he was traded back home to play for the Florida Marlins. However, less than three weeks later, Mike's plans were put on hold by a startling discovery. While undergoing a regular physical examination, Mike was diagnosed with testicular cancer. The surgery and three weeks of radiation were successful. Mike recovered with the love and support of his family, including his lovely wife Bertica, and today he remains cancer-free.

Mike created the Mike Lowell Foundation, which helps raise funds for cancer research and helps pay for medical care to low income cancer patients.

While a member of the Marlins, he was a key contributor to their exciting 2003 World Series Championship. Mike was a 2002 and 2003 All-Star and won the 2003 National League Silver Slugger Award, which is given to the top offensive players at each position. In 2005, he won his first Rawlings Gold Glove Award for his "superior fielding performance" at third base.

On November 21, 2005, the Marlins traded Mike to the Boston Red Sox. He was voted onto the 2007 American League All-Star Team by his peers. In the 2007 season, he had a .324 batting average, hit 21 home runs and was the Red Sox team leader with 120 RBIs.

In the post-season, Mike was truly "El Señor Octubre". In the American League Divisional Series and the American League Championship Series, Mike batted in 11 runs for Boston as they defeated the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the Cleveland Indians.

But it was on baseball's grandest stage that Mike Lowell shined brightest. During the World Series, Mike batted .400, scored 6 runs and drove in 4, including a home run in the decisive Game 4 against the Colorado Rockies. For his extraordinary performance, he was named the 2007 World Series Most Valuable Player.

I wish to congratulate Mike for his extraordinary accomplishments. He has earned the profound respect and affection of millions of baseball fans, and shown the entire Nation what the south Florida community has known for a long time, that Mike Lowell is an extremely talented, intelligent, and decent man. I am truly honored to be able to call Mike Lowell my friend.

CONGRATULATING JULIUS GOLDSTEIN & SON INC. OF MOBILE ON ITS RECOGNITION AS AN ALABAMA CENTENNIAL RETAILER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Julius Goldstein & Son Inc. located in Mobile, Alabama, for being recognized by the Alabama Retail Association as an Alabama Centennial Retailer.

The Alabama Retail Association, in conjunction with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, sponsors the Retailer of the Year program. Awarded in three categories based on annual sales volume, the awards are presented each year at the association's Retailing Day luncheon.

The designation of Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association recognizes century-old retail businesses for their contributions to Alabama's past, present, and future. I am proud to recognize that two of the honorees are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of this year's honorees, Julius Goldstein & Son Inc., which does business as Goldstein's Jewelry, was founded in 1879 by Julius Goldstein. One of the South's leading fine jewelry stores, it is now owned by Richard Frank Jr., whose family purchased the business in the 1950s. Originally located on Dauphin Street in downtown Mobile, Goldstein's moved to Royal Street in 1905. Relocating to